



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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November 9, 2011

Future Fisheries Review Panel
C/O Mark Lere
Fisheries Division
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue,
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Willow Creek Project Proposal – Big Blackfoot Chapter Trout Unlimited

Dear Panel Members:

This letter is written in support of BBCTU's application for Future Fisheries grant funds for fish passage and watershed improvements on Willow Creek. Willow Creek is a tributary of the upper Blackfoot River that supports westslope cutthroat trout as well as other trout species.

The proposed project is truly a collaborative effort between the landowner, BBCTU, Five Valleys Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP). This project is the result of the development of a Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan conservation easement, which FWP was deeply involved in; the specific purpose of which is to enhance the recovery of westslope cutthroat trout. As the biologist conducting fish population and related surveys for the easement baseline data on this tributary, the project will be necessary as an initial step towards expanding cutthroat trout into downstream segments of Willow Creek.

Please give this proposal strong consideration for funding and let me know if I may help answer questions about the proposed work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron Pierce

Ron Pierce
Blackfoot Fisheries Biologist